

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are rejected. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1 – 17 are pending in the application of which claim 1 is an independent claim. Reconsideration of all grounds of rejection in the Office Action based upon the above amendments, and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to more accurately describe the present invention as disclosed in the specification and to incorporate the limitations found in dependent claim 4. Specifically, the hole recited in claim 1 has been more accurately described as a '**through** hole' as disclosed on page 4, lines 18 – 21 in the specification and as illustrated in FIG. 3, reference character 311e. Dependent claim 4 has been incorporated into the base claim with additional language to describe a planar mounting surface 'of a predetermined width and length' **notched in the outer circumferential surface of the housing**. Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 5, lines 2 – 3 and further described on page 8, lines 1-2, 7-9, 14-15 and page 9, line 1-2 and illustrated in FIG. 3 and 5 (reference character 311d). No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al in view of Hsueh or Caudwell. In response, applicants have amended the base claims and therefore ask reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection based upon the following comments.

Claim 1, has been amended to recite a connector-integrated directional coupler comprising *inter alia*, **cylindrical housing** having, an **elongated through hole** extending from

the input connector to the output connector through the housing for accommodating the main line therein, *and a planar mounting surface **of a predetermined width and length notched in the outer circumferential surface of the housing*** for mounting the coupling line thereon and having at least two coupling line thereon and wherein the *housing, the input connector, and the output connector **are arranged coaxially***.

In contrast, neither Wang alone or in view of Hsueh or Caudwell combined teach or suggest a connector-integrated directional coupler as disclosed in the base claim. According to the Office Action, Wang as modified by Hsueh teaches a housing further comprising a planar mounting surface having at least two coupling holes at the outer circumference surface of the housing for mounting the coupling line thereon. However, neither reference alone or in combination disclose a *and a planar mounting surface **of a predetermined width and length notched in the outer circumferential surface of the housing*** for mounting the coupling line thereon and having at least two coupling line thereon and wherein the *housing, the input connector, and the output connector **are arranged coaxially*** as disclosed in the base claim.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references cited and the alleged combination of references fails to provide the disclosure, suggestion, or motivation that would have made the instant claims as amended obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that such rationale is not present in the teachings of the references and thus the claims would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 10-15 should be withdrawn.

The other claims, 8, 9, 16, and 17 found in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an

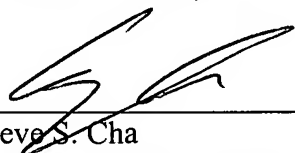
additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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